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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 25, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS E. PETRI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 31, 2006, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, out of Your infinite love, You call each of us by name. You tie us into a set of relationships and You position us in a particular place and time that we may accomplish Your holy will.

Since this democracy is government by the people, it is for the American people that this House of Representatives gathers today. Whether duly elected or employed by the taxpayers, all who work here, Lord, are called by You and accountable both to You and to the American people.

As ordinary individuals, You equip us to do our job well. We look to You for strength and guidance in all judgments. May all that we do be sanctified by Your presence and dignified by dedication to the common good of the American people both now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. POE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

TORTURE DEFINED

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, Merriam-Webster defines torture as "the infliction of intense pain, as from burning, crushing, or wounding." I would challenge those who oppose America's strenuous interrogation of known terrorists to explain how sleep deprivation and forced standing fits this description.

The Islamofascist movement seeks the destruction of modern civilization. To accomplish this twisted goal, no means are off limits. Rules of war and international treaties do not apply. These barbarians target civilians, they eagerly blow up innocent children, they behead their captives.

Our men and women in uniform are fighting to protect our families and our homeland from these mass murderers. It is important that America maintain its high moral standing in the global community. An honest debate about the treatment of terrorist detainees is certainly in order. Still, we cannot forget that our freedoms are under siege. We must employ all appropriate means to eradicate terrorism and protect American families in the global war on terror.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SITUATION IN IRAQ

(Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, the situation in Iraq is more deadly than ever before. During July and August, 6,600 Iraqi civilians were murdered by death squads, militias, and insurgents.

Today, it was reported that there are 23 armed and violent militias in Iraq, some with direct connections to the Iraqi Government officials and ministries. And we now know our own U.S.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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intelligence agencies are reporting that the Iraq war is fueling global terrorism, making America less safe. After nearly 3½ years of the war in Iraq, nearly 2,700 American lives lost, our own independent government agencies are saying the incompetence of the Bush administration's Iraq policy is radicalizing and inspiring the creation of terrorists around the world.

Democrats are focused on fighting the war on terror, not creating terrorists. Democrats are focused on keeping America secure and bringing our troops home from Iraq safe and soon.

"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO MEXICO"?

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Federal judges have been trying to rip the pledge of allegiance out of our schools and have prevented it from being recited by school kids in nine States. Now our pledge is under siege again. Our kids are being intimidated into pledging allegiance to a foreign flag.

Velasco Elementary in Texas celebrated Mexican Independence Day by handing out small Mexican flags and making children as young as pre-kindergarten stand as parents recited the Mexican pledge in Spanish. That pledge honors the heroes of Mexico, promising always to be faithful and dedicate loyalty to that nation.

Pledging allegiance to a foreign flag is un-American. The principal of the school, Sam Williams, justified reciting the pledge meekly by saying, "Well, we want to be diverse at our school."

There is only one flag our children should uphold and hold. There is only one pledge that they should recite. The Mexican Government and illegals may have their sights on retaking the Southwest, but we will not hand it over to them one student at a time. In the words of the Texans who fought originally for Mexican independence, you'll have to "come and take it." Our loyalty is to America, not to Mexico.

And that's just the way it is.

APPLAUDING THE CAPITOL FLAG OFFICE EMPLOYEES

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the courageous actions of employees in the U.S. Capitol flag office.

Last week, an armed intruder evaded security and broke into the Capitol, leading police on a chase spanning four floors of the building. The perpetrator represented a serious threat to the safety of Members, staff, and the visiting public. At the time of his capture, he was carrying a .22 caliber pistol and was high on crack cocaine. But thanks

to the sharp instincts, quick thinking, and decisive action of a trio of Capitol flag office employees, Monday, September 18, was not to be a tragic day. According to published reports, these brave employees were able to subdue the intruder, holding him in custody until Capitol Police arrived.

Mr. Speaker, I have got some serious concerns, as I think we all do, regarding how easily Capitol security was breached last week. We have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on securing the Capitol and increasing the size of the police force since 9/11. But that is a debate for another time and place. Today, I want to use this time on the House floor to recognize individuals from the flag office involved in last week's security breach. They are part of a team who day in and day out ensure that constituents across the country receive their own crisp edition of the Stars and Stripes freshly flown over the Capitol dome. Their actions in a dangerous situation speak volumes, displaying a willingness to put their safety on the line for this institution and for their fellow workers.

ENGLISH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

(Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the old saying, "united we stand, divided we fall," is so true. Just as common language can unite a people, the lack of a unified national language can be enormously divisive. However, the Senate's immigration bill failed the American people by giving them a watered down, feel-good statement that does nothing.

New immigrants already have to learn English to become citizens. It is only common sense that we come together under one unified language by making English the official language of the United States. Listen up, America: enough is enough. United we stand, and English we speak.

A BLESSED NATION

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, we are a blessed Nation. We have not suffered another attack on our soil since September 11, and we are grateful. We have killed or captured dozens of members of al Qaeda and the Taliban. Our military and intelligence forces are working both hard and smart.

After two decades of having U.S. interests attacked by the terrorists, we have taken the war on terrorism to the terrorists' backyard. For decades, whether it was the Iranian hostage crisis, the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the first World Trade Center bombing, or the USS *Cole* bombing, we did not

view terrorist attacks as a declaration of war. And that is what they were, but we didn't see it. We used law enforcement to go after terrorists and we sought to negotiate. What a mistake that was. But it is a mistake all too many who prefer appeasement want us to repeat.

Can any of us even imagine, after Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt suggesting we negotiate a resolution or that we could simply prosecute those involved? Of course it is unimaginable. We are right to be in the Middle East, and we are right to treat this as the war it is.

BERRY COLLEGE

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Berry College in Rome, Georgia, which this year was named as one of the top two colleges in the South by the prestigious U.S. News and World Report rankings.

For those of us who know Berry College, this honor comes as no surprise. This past spring I had the honor of addressing Berry College at the 2006 graduation ceremony. I was incredibly impressed by the student body. Berry is helping mold engaged, eager, driven students into the kind of leaders our communities are fortunate to have.

Berry College's founder and namesake, Martha Berry, once noted that education combines the head, the heart, and the hands. I know Berry students are receiving a superior education that combines high-quality academic learning with moral and spiritual growth and experience and worthwhile service to others. This makes Berry not only one of the top colleges in the South but in the Nation as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in congratulating Berry's president, Stephen Briggs, and the students, faculty, staff, and alumni that have made Berry College into a premier educational institution.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 22, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTER, *Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER:

Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 22, 2006, at 9:15 a.m.:

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 3127.

That the Senate passed S. Con. Res. 116.

That the Senate passed S. 2562.